

1838

MEXICO TO LONDON VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL

Bark Ann Eliza, Biscoe, Vera Cruz to New York

Packet Ship Pennsylvania, New York to Liverpool

Forwarding Agent: Howland & Aspinwall, New York



1838

The Packet Services

BLUE SWALLOWTAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE
MEXICO TO LONDON VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL

Bark Ann Eliza, Biscoe, Vera Cruz to New York

Packet Ship Pennsylvania, New York to Liverpool

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Forwarding Agent

Howland & Aspinwall, N. York

February 1, 1838. A letter headed at Mexico, with a duplicate dated Jany. 29, original p. Hope Packet (direct to England) detailing silver and gold sent to Fredk. Huth & Co. per packet Nightingale, out of Vera Cruz.

This letter was forwarded to New York per the bark Ann Eliza in a bundle to the forwarders Howland & Aspinwall, New York.

N.Y. Shipping List and Price Current. Arrived New York March 5, Bark Ann Eliza, Biscoe, from Vera Cruz.

VESSELS UP FOR FOREIGN PORTS: To Liverpool. Ship Pennsylvania, Smith, 18 E.R., 8th March...Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

March 6. The forwarding agents Howland & Aspinwall struck their distinctive red oval backstamp, endorsed the letter "pr. Pennsylvania" and deposited it directly into the mail bag of the packet ship Pennsylvania, which cleared N.Y. as advertised on March 7, sailed March 8.

April 5. Pennsylvania arrived at Liverpool, London transit backstamp April 6. Letter was rated, Act of 1812 (52 Geo. III, Cap. 88) rate of 11d. for a single letter 170-230 miles from Liverpool to London (206 miles). To this was added the 8d. Ship

Letter charge, total 19d. or 1sh.7d., shown as 1/7 in manuscript.

Captain on this voyage was John P. Smith, Liverpool Blue Swallowtail, '27 Napoleon, '36 Pennsylvanis. Captain Smith was lost in January 1839, when the Pennsylvania hit a sandbank in the lower Mersey during the "Liverpool Hurricane" which swept the west coast of England. Of the 40 persons who had left Liverpool, 15 were lost including Capt. Smith.

FORWARDED BY
HOWLAND & ASPINWALL
NEW-YORK.

LIVERPOOL
SHIP LETTER

D
6 APR 6
1838

1833

LIVERPOOL TO UPPER CANADA VIA NEW YORK
BLUE SWALLOW TAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE
Packet Ship Silas Richards Fish. Grinnell & Co.



May 24, 1833. Letter datelined at Liverpool and endorsed: p Silas Richards/via New York. The Blue Swallow Tail packet Silas Richards sailed from Liverpool this same date for New York.

July 1. Shipping & Commercial List (N.Y.)
Arrived at N.Y. June 29-30, ship Silas Richards, Bursley, from Liverpool.

Letter was rated at N.Y., Act of 1825, for a single letter zone rate 150 to 400 miles of 18-3/4c. N.Y. to the Canadian border Exchange Office at Kingston, Upper Canada. To this was added the 2c Ship Letter charge to total 20-3/4c.

July 6. Transit at Kingston. The 20-3/4c U.S. was converted to Canadian currency at 1sh1d., shown as 1N1 (actual conversion was 1sh 0 1/2d.) To this was added the Canadian postage from Kingston to Stanstead (over 300 miles) at 1/- sterling plus 2d. ferriage fee. This converted to 1sh.5d. currency for

a total due of 2sh.6d. currency. The postmaster at Stanstead allowed for the more advantageous of the U.S. rate conversion and "Charged Lock Box 2/5 1/2d."



1N1
1N5
2N6

1847

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services

BLUE SWALLOW TAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE

New York to Liverpool

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship Ashburton

This line is recorded beginning in 1822 with the little 340 ton packet Robert Fulton. Grinnell, Minturn & Co. built the 1015 ton Ashburton in 1842 during the heyday of packet-boat lines, she remained in service until 1863. She is reputed to have made the voyage from New York to Liverpool in twelve days, but also has the dubious record of the slowest westbound passage of 89 days, leaving L'pool Jan. 9, 1856, arrived New York April 7, 1856.

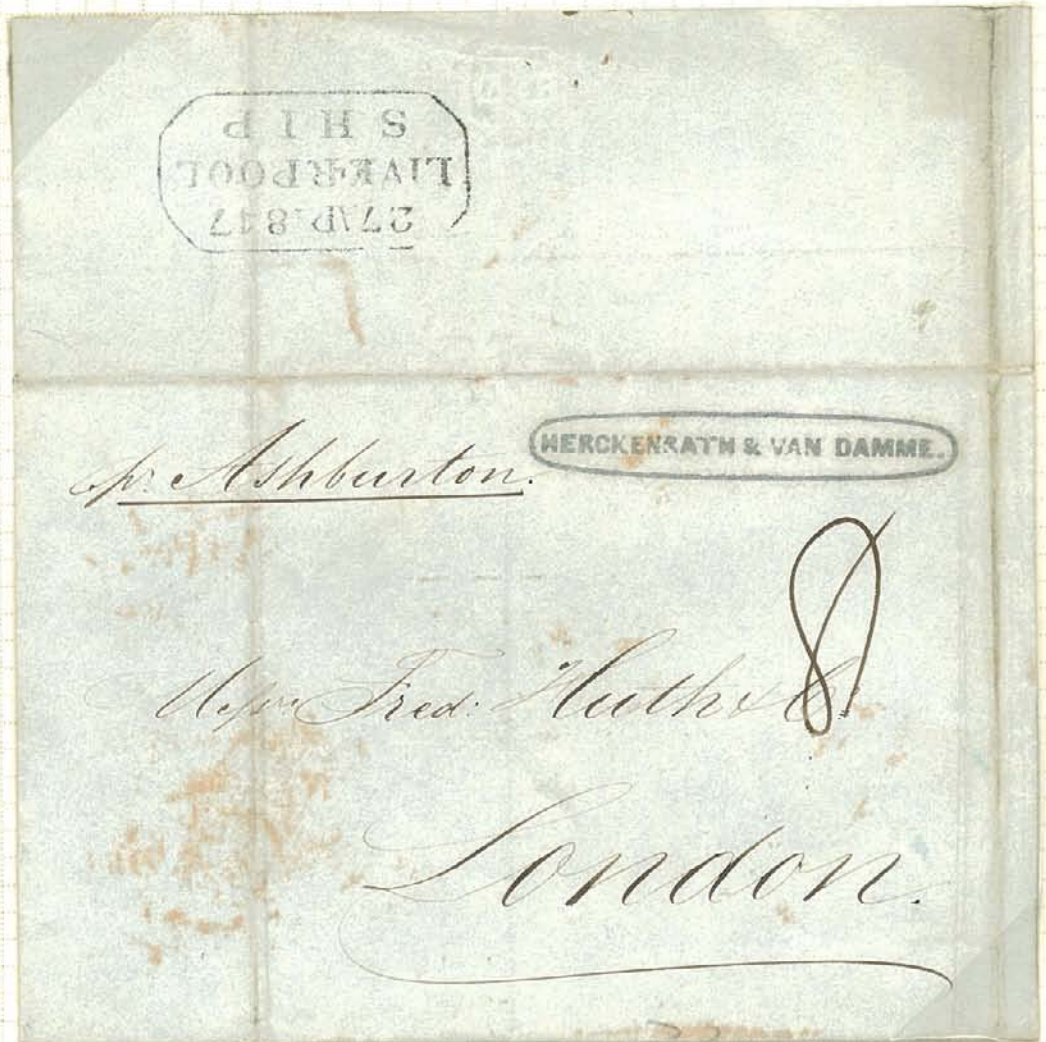
April 7, 1847. Letter docketed at New York. Shipping instructions "pr Ashburton".

27AP1847
LIVERPOOL
SHIP

April 27, 1847.
Letter arrived at
Liverpool as a
SHIP Letter R.S16.

E*
28AP28
1847

April 28. Lon-
don receipt back-
stamp. Rated at
standard ship
letter rate of
8d. due, effect-
ive after 1840.



1834

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services

*

BLUE SWALLOW TAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE

New York to Liverpool

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship George Washington

The George Washington, 609 tons, was built in 1832 at New Bedford, Mass. She was registered on Oct. 6, 1832 at the Port of New York. She served the Blue Swallow Tail Line from 1832 until 1845. She was sold after damage in a gale off the Irish Coast.

July 22, 1834. Letter datelined at London, and no doubt went by courier to Liverpool where it was put directly into the letter bag aboard the George Washington.



August 25, 1834. Letter arrived at New York where it was rated as a Ship Letter, i.e., Act of 1825 zone rate, single of 18-3/4¢ for a letter 150 to 400 miles (New York to Richmond) + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢ due as shown in manuscript.

1835

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services



BLUE SWALLOW TAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE

New York to Liverpool

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship Napoleon

August 22, 1835. Letter, datelined at London, went under separate cover to Liverpool to meet the sailing of the Blue Swallow Tail packet Napoleon, as endorsed on the cover face.



September 21, 1835. Shipping and Commercial List & New-York Price Current: Arrived N.Y. Sept. 19,20, Ship Napoleon, Smith, Liverpool.

The N.Y. post office rated this as a triple letter, Act of 1825, 80 to 150 miles at $12\frac{1}{2}¢ \times 3 = 37\frac{1}{2}¢$ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = $39\frac{1}{2}¢$, shown in manuscript.

Commander was Captain John P. Smith. The Napoleon under his command was a particular favorite with travellers; he was the only commander of Napoleon during her nine years of packet service, a unique record (Albion, "Square Riggers on Schedule".)

1836

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services

BLUE SWALLOW TAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE

New York to Liverpool

Packet Ship George Washington

FORWARDING AGENT

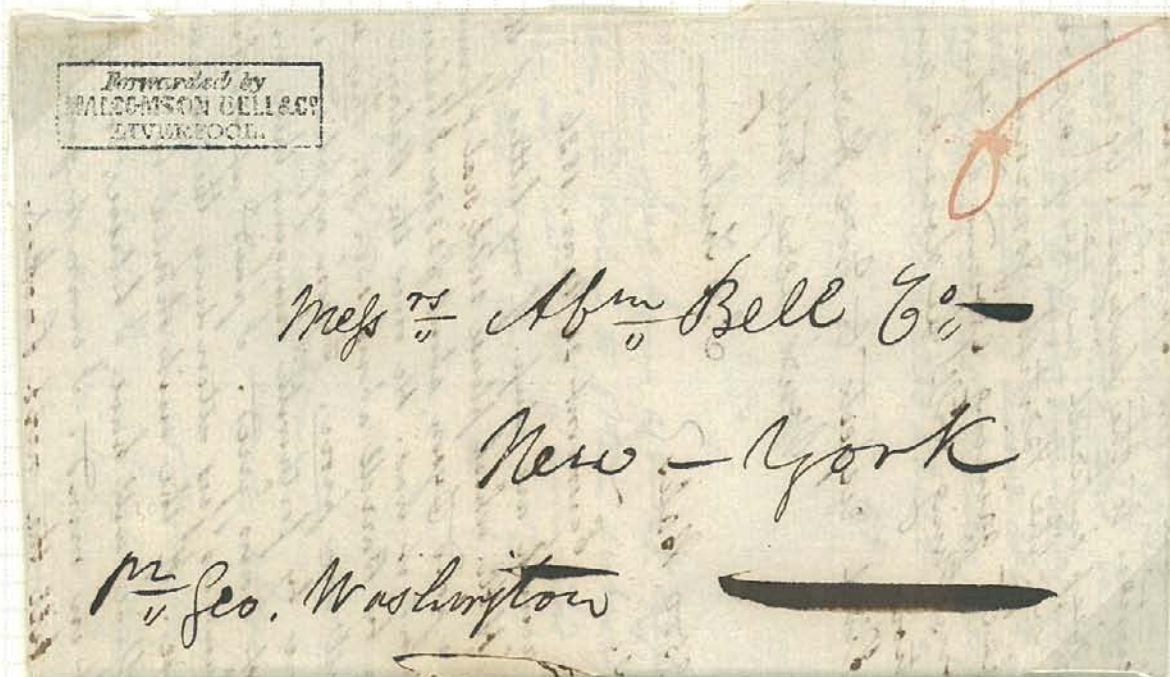
Malcomson Bell & Co.

Liverpool

Forwarded by
MALCOMSON BELL & CO.
LIVERPOOL.

March 24, 1836. Letter, accompanied by three duplicates of the 15, 16 and 18th March sent by the "Europe," is datelined Egremont 24 Mar. 1836, and endorsed: pr. George Washington. They concern cotton dealings.

Letter was handled by the Liverpool forwarding agent Malcomson Bell & Co. who impressed their 36 x 11 mm. rectangular handstamp on the face (R.F.3.) The Grinnell, Minturn & Co. fleet of the Blue Swallow Tail Line sailed regularly from Liverpool.



April 30, 1836. Docket notes receipt at New York. Letter rated 6 cents due for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry.

Shipping and Commercial List (N.Y.). Arrived N.Y. April 30, ship George Washington, Holdrege.....Liverpool.

1836

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services

BLUE SWALLOW TAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE

New York to Liverpool

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship Roscoe

Roscoe was ship rigged and served on the Liverpool Blue Swallow Tail Line from 1832-43. In 1843 she became a Baltimore-Liverpool packet.

She was of 622 tons, 134"-8" x 32" beam with a hold depth of 16'. She was launched at New York in 1832 by Smith & Dimon. She was an average sailer, her westbound passages averaged 38 days, her shortest 24 days and longest 59 days.



June 23. Letter docketed from Hagarty & Jardine, British merchants, endorsed: Roscoe.

June 27. Grinnell & Minturn & Co.'s packet ship Roscoe departed from Liverpool for N. York.

New York Commerical Advertiser, Aug. 2, 1836. ARRIVED, Packet ship Roscoe, Delano, from Liverpool 27th June. 21st of July on Whale Bank, lat. 47 37, lon 53 19, spoke schr. Jane, of Boston, fishing - The fishermen had all been drove off the Bank by a heavy easterly gale on the 17th and 18th, with loss of cables and anchors.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, 18-3/4¢, single letter 150 to 400 mi. + 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 20-3/4¢ due.

1837

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services



BLUE SWALLOW TAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE

New York to Liverpool

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship Roscoe

Quadruple Letter

October 23, 1837. Letter, datelined at Manchester, went under separate cover to Liverpool to meet the sailing of the Blue Swallow Roscoe, as endorsed on the cover face. This was a duplicate letter, the original had gone on an earlier packet, North America of the Black Ball Line.

Commander on this voyage was Capt. Joseph C. Delano (1796-1886) born at New Bedford. His uncle Warren Delano, Sr. was great grandfather of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.



December 2,3, 1837. Arrived at Port of New York, Ship Roscoe, Delano, Liverpool (Shipping & Commercial List and New-York Price Current.)

Letter rated under Act of 1825. Rate to Lowell, Mass. from New York (255 miles) took the 150 to 400 miles zone rate of $18\text{-}3/4\text{¢} \times 4 = 75\text{¢} + 2\text{¢}$ Ship Letter fee = 77¢ as shown in manuscript.

1839

BLUE SWALLOWTAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE

New York to Liverpool
Packet Ship Roscoe

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.
Freight Money



25
37

May 5, 1839. A letter paid at Baltimore to New York plus sailing packet Freight Money. Cover is endorsed: per next Liverpool Packet via New York. The letter mentions enclosures, bills on Her Majesty's Treasury dated Bermuda 2nd April. As such, the letter took a double rate shown in manuscript in two transactions as follows:

The Freight Money by sailing packet was $12\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}/\frac{1}{2}\text{-oz.} \times 2 = 25\text{¢}$

U.S. internal rate, Act of 1825, 150 to 400 miles at $18\text{-}3/4\text{¢} \times 2 = 37\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$.

The Freight Money was sent by the letter to be turned over to the shipping line's agent in New York.



LIVERPOOL
SHIP LETTER

N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List. VESSELS UP FOR FOREIGN PORTS, LIVERPOOL: Ship Roscoe, Delano, 18 E.R., 7th May...Grinnell Minturn & Co. Roscoe sailed on even date.

Letter received at Liverpool as a SHIP LETTER, backstamp.



June 8. London receipt backstamp. Letter rated, Act of 1812, Liverpool to London (206 miles) at 11d. for a single letter conveyed 170 to 230 miles + 8d. Ship Letter charge = 1sh.7d. x 2 (double letter) = 3sh.2d. due, shown as 3/2 in manuscript.

1836

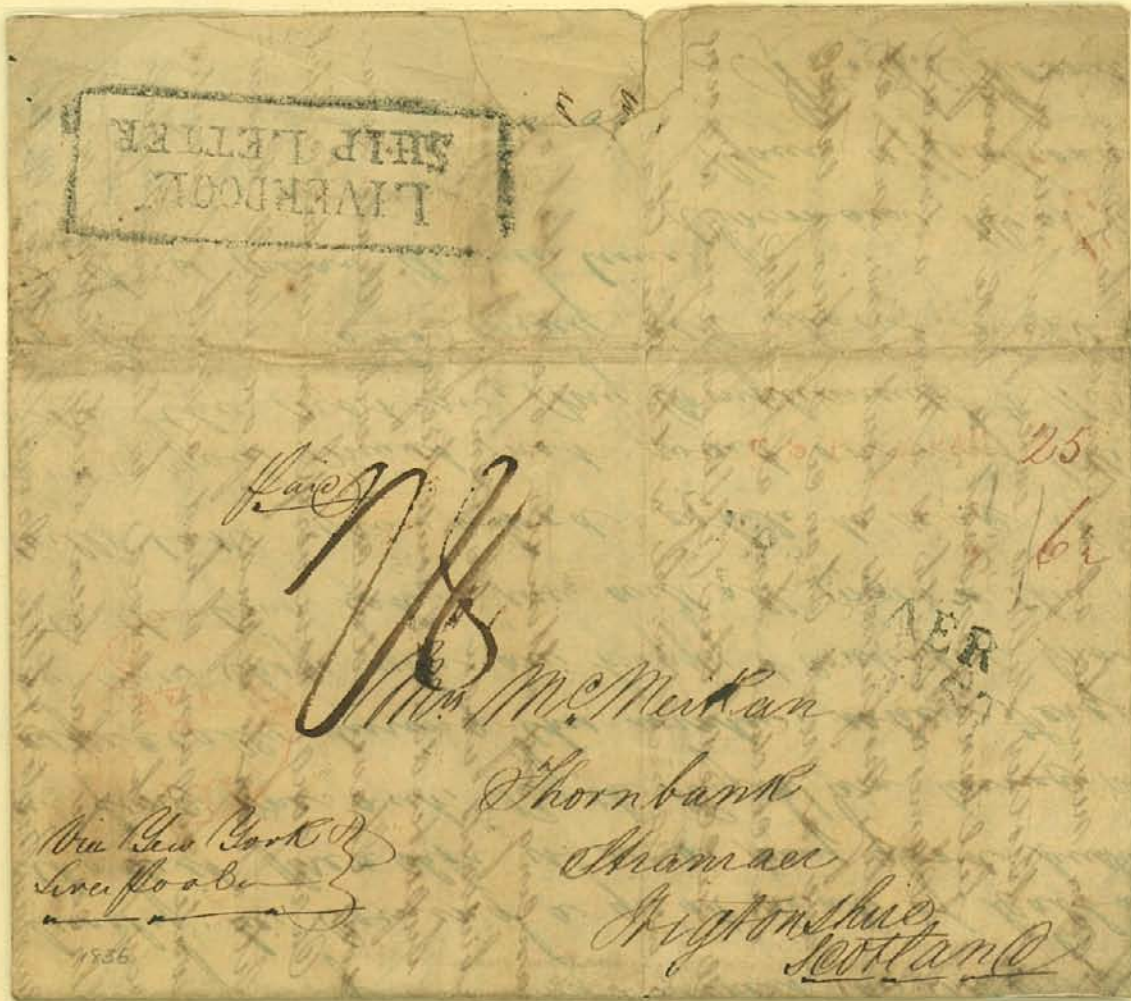
HAMILTON, U.C. TO SCOTLAND VIA NEW YORK & LIVERPOOL
BLUE SWALLOW TAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE

Packet Ship Independence

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Ferriage Fee

U.S. Postage Paid in Canada



1836

HAMILTON, U.C. TO SCOTLAND VIA NEW YORK & LIVERPOOL
BLUE SWALLOW TAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE

Packet Ship Independence

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Ferriage Fee

U.S. Postage Paid in Canada

U.S. POST PAID 25

6½



April 3, 1836. Letter, endorsed Via New York & Liverpool, is datelined and handstamped at Hamilton, Upper Canada. The Canadian postmaster collected the U.S. postage necessary to get a letter prepaid to New York to meet one of the fast sailing American packets. Here this was shown by the unique red "U.S. POST PAID" handstamp and the "25" is the U.S. Act of 1825 rate for a single letter over 400 miles, Queenston to New York. The sender also had to pay the June 1, 1792, Canadian rate of 4½d. for a single letter not over 60 miles, Hamilton to the Exchange Office at Queenston plus a 2d. ferriage fee, total 6½d., as shown.

Shipping and Commercial List and New-York Price Current, April 2, 1836.

VESSELS UP FOR FOREIGN PORTS

Liverpool: Ship Independence, Nye, 18 E.R., 8th April, Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

LIVERPOOL
SHIP LETTER

R.S. 13

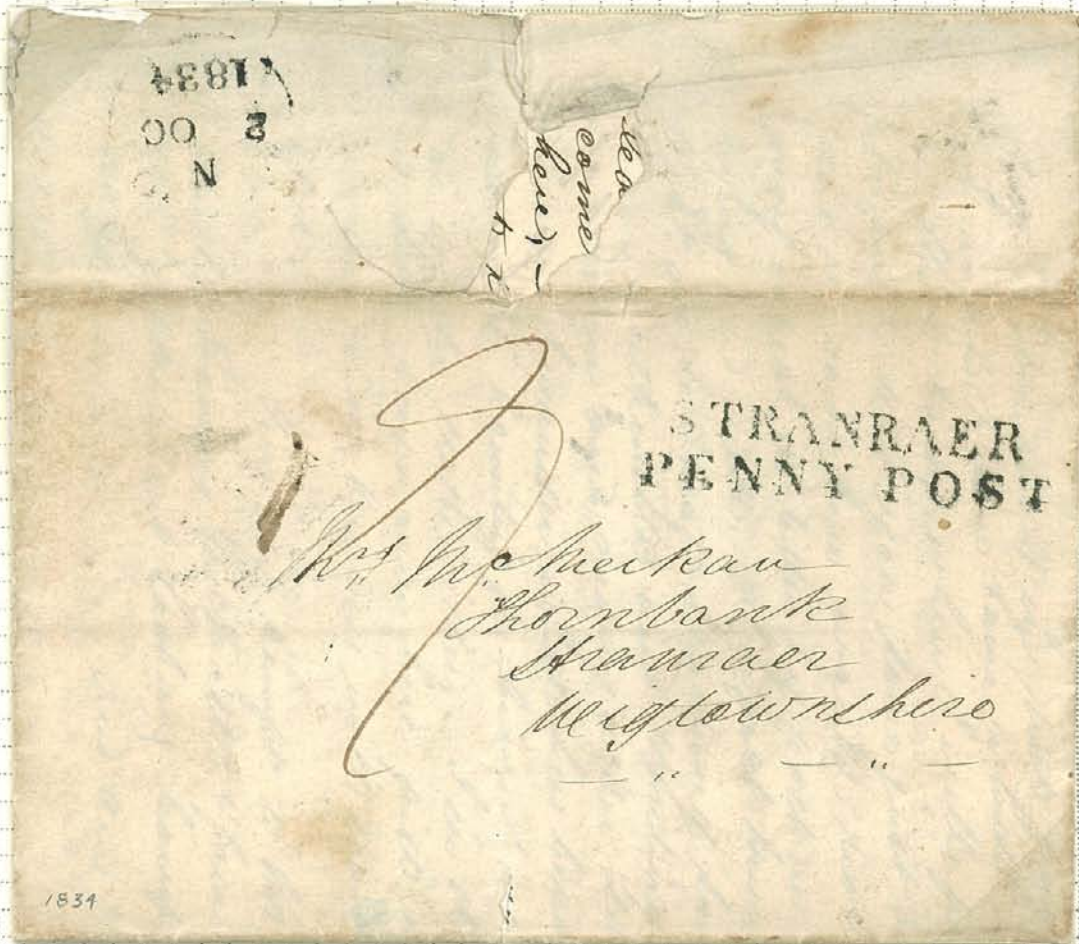
This cover was received at Liverpool as a Ship Letter. It was rated, Act of 1812 (52 Geo. III. Cap. 88), Liverpool to Stranraer, Scotland, zone rate of 1 shilling, 230 to 300 miles inland. To this was added the 8d. Ship Letter charge to total 1shilling 8d. shown as 1/8 in manuscript.

STRANRAER
PENNY POST

Letter entered the Stranraer Penny Post, so an additional penny was due. Mrs. McMerkan of Thornbank had to pay a total of 1sh.9d. to hear the news of her son William A. Thompson from Upper Canada, America.

1834

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
HAMILTON, UPPER CANADA TO SCOTLAND "BY FAVOR"



July 31, 1834. Letter datelined at Hamilton, Gare District, Upper Canada from William H. Thomson to his mother, Mrs. McMerkan at Stranraer, Wigtonshire, Scotland. He tells her about his life in Canada and how he prefers it to the old country.

To save extensive postage, Thomson entrusted his letter to a traveller heading for Scotland. Normal postage via New York would have been 4½d. Canadian currency to the Exchange Office at Queenston plus 2d. ferriage fee and 25¢ U.S. to get the letter to New York. Then his mother would have to pay 1 shilling 8d. sterling for postage and captain's gratuity, Liverpool to Stranraer as well as the One Penny Post charge.

STRANRAER
PENNY POST

GLASGOW
2 OCT
1834

Oct. 2, 1834. William's benefactor arrived at Glasgow over 2 months after he had penned the letter and deposited it unpaid. Here the letter took the Act of 1812 (52 Geo. III, Cap. 88) rate for a single letter 80 to 120 miles inland at 9d. Glasgow to Stranraer, 85 miles.

At Stranraer the letter entered the Penny Post so an additional penny was due.

1839

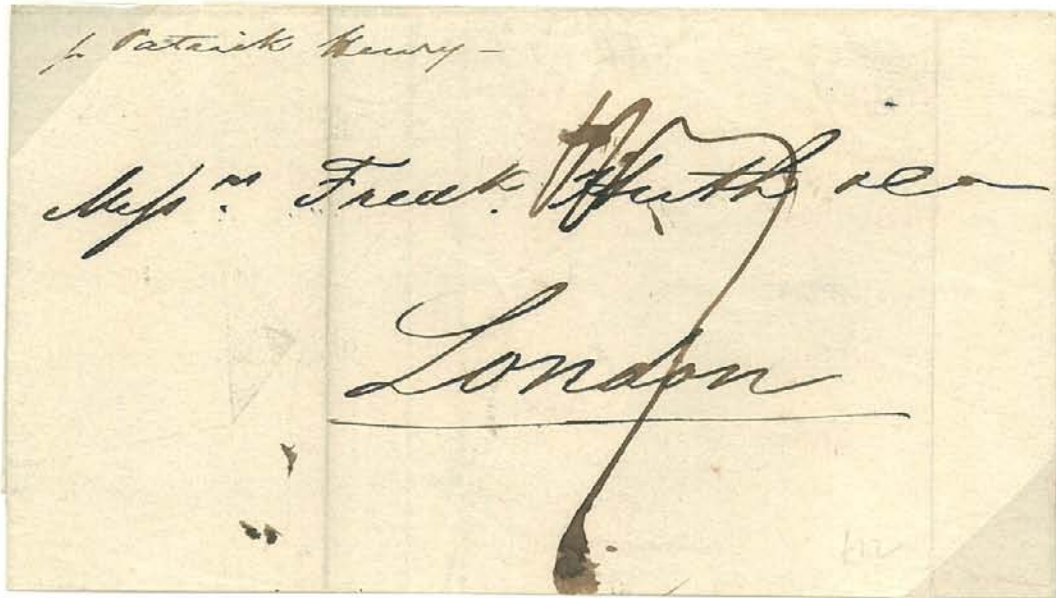
BLUE SWALLOWTAIL LINE of FOURTH LINE

New York to Liverpool

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship Patrick Henry

Maiden Voyage



November 7, 1839. Letter docketed at New York to Frederick Huth & Co., London. It is endorsed: p Patrick Henry.

Shipping & Commercial List, N.Y. VESSELS UP FOR FOREIGN PORTS, Liverpool - Ship Patrick Henry (new,) Delano, 18 E.R. 7th Nov..Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

The Patrick Henry cleared New York on November 6 on her maiden voyage to Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL
SHIP LETTER



November 25. Patrick Henry arrived at Liverpool, backstamp.

November 26. London arrival backstamp. Letter rated, Act of 1812, for a letter conveyed 170-230 miles (Liverpool to London = 206 miles) at 11d. plus 8d. Ship Letter charge = 19d. = 1sh.7d. shown un manuscript as 1/7 due.

1840

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services

BLUE SWALLOWTAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE

New York to Liverpool

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship Patrick Henry

Freight Money



March 1, 1840. Letter to London paid at the rate of March 3, 1825, single, 80 to 150 miles at 12½¢. To this was added the sailing packet freight money rate of 12½¢, total paid 25¢ as shown in manuscript.

Shipping & Commercial List, N.Y. VESSELS UP FOR FOREIGN PORTS:
Ship Yazoo, Trask, 15 E.R., 1st March..C.H. Marshall.
Ship Patrick Henry, Delano, 19 E.R., 7th March, Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Letter, too late for the Yazoo, went out March 7 on the Patrick Henry, 880 tons, Blue Swallowtail Line, in service 1839-52. She went to the London Swallowtail Line in 1852.

LIVERPOOL
SHIPLETTER

London Times. April 7, 1840. Arrived April 6 at Liverpool. The Patrick Henry from New York. Liverpool Ship Letter backstamp.

April 6. London arrival backstamp.



1838

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services

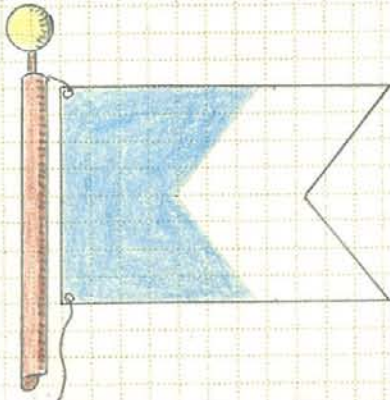
✱

BLUE SWALLOW TAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE

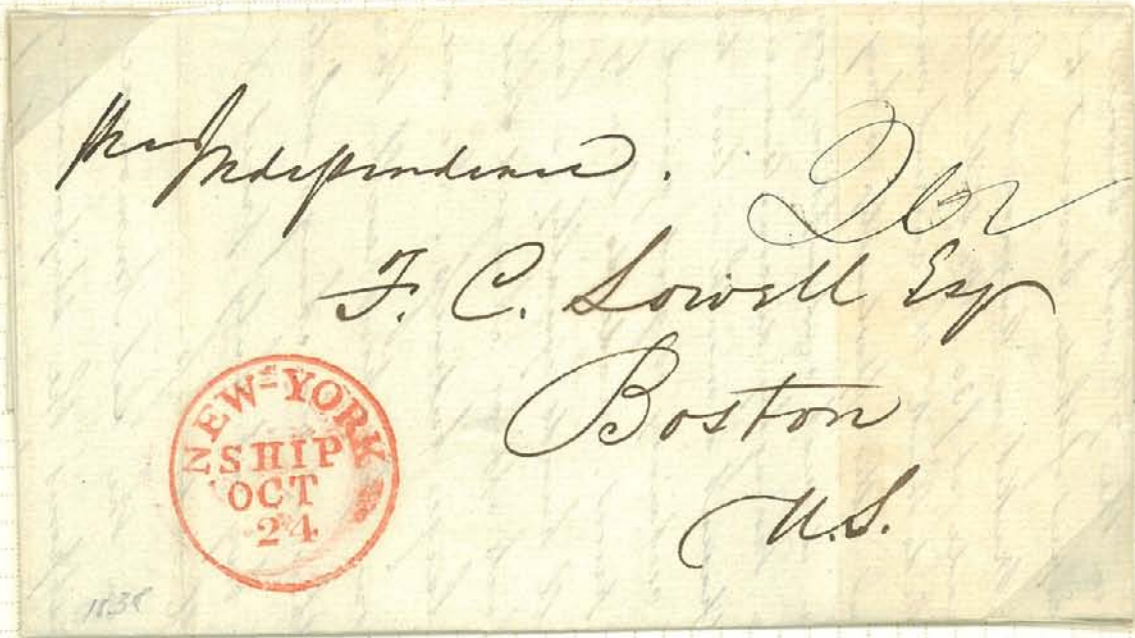
New York to Liverpool

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship Independence



732 ton packet ship, built 1834 at New York, registered Aug. 7, 1834 at the Port of New York. She served on the Blue Swallow Tail Line until '47, when she was transferred to Grinnell, Minturn's other line the Red Swallow Tail Line, London to New York via Portsmouth and served there until 1852.



Sept. 24, 1838. Letter datelined at Manchester, England, a "duplicate" letter headed "pr Independence". The "original" of Sept. 18 was sent "pr Royal William", a steamer of the Transatlantic Steam Ship Company which completed only three round voyages.



Oct. 24, 1838. Letter incoming as a Ship Letter at New York. Rated under Act of March 3, 1825 zone rate of 18-3/4¢ for a letter 150 to 400 miles (N.Y. to Boston) + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢ due as shown in manuscript.

1854

BLUE SWALLOWTAIL LINE or FOURTH LINE
Liverpool to New York Grinnell, Minfurn & Co.
Packet Ship New World

In 1854 Cornelius Grinnell took over the management of several of the Liverpool Swallowtail Line packets. On this sailing the of the packet ship New World he is listed in the N.Y. Times as the receiver of that vessel.



September 18, 1854. A consignee's letter dated at Liverpool advising that Leeds, Harrison, Forwood & Co. are shipping 9 cases of goods to New York aboard the packet New World. This 1404 ton ship was built in 1846 by Donald McKay of East Boston.

September 27. New World sailed from Liverpool.

6

N.Y. Times. Arrived at New York October 24, 1854, Ship New World (packet,) Knight, Liverpool September 27 with mdse. and passengers to Cornelius Grinnell - no deaths.

Letter rated at New York at 6¢ for a single Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival.

1833

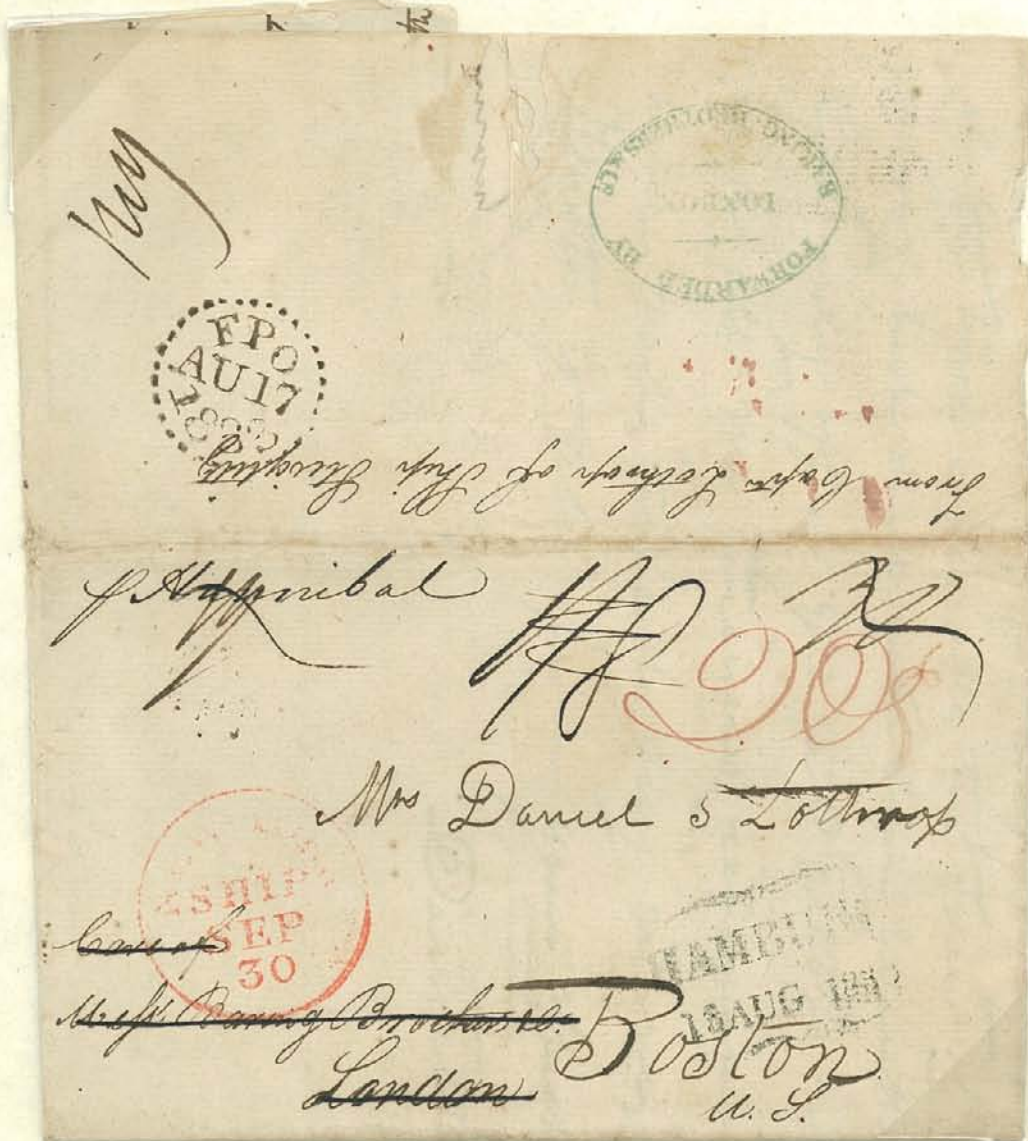
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services

RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

Denmark to Boston via London and New York

Packet Ship Hannibal



August 9, 1833. A letter datelined at Copenhagen from Daniel S. Lothrop of the ship Steiglitz to his wife advising her that the ship went aground on the island of Lesage. It was got off by throwing cargo overboard. Five crewmen, attempting to bring an anchor out in a small boat, were thrown into the surf when the boat capsized. They were rescued by throwing over to them hen coops until another boat could be launched. He says, "So that the only loss of lives were the loss of about 2 Dozen Hens which were in the coops..."

1833

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
The Packet Services
RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

Packet Ship Hannibal

Forwarding Agent
Baring Brothers & Co., London

August 9, 1833. Letter datelined at Copenhagen, Denmark where the ship Steiglitz was brought in for repairs after going on a shoal. It is addressed to the care of Baring Brothers & Co., London.

HAMBURG
13 AUG 1833



August 13. Letter went via Hamburg. Transit stamp on face.



August 17. Letter arrived at London where it was subject to the rate of 1828 from Denmark at 1 shilling 8 pence, shown as 1/8 in manuscript. Baring Brothers paid this amount, deleted their address and the British rate notation and marked

the letter: p Hannibal.

August 20. The packet ship Hannibal, 440 tons, of the Red Swallow-tail Line, departed from London for New York.



Shipping and Commercial List, N.Y. Arrived at New York September 28, 29: Ship Hannibal, Hebard...London.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter 150-400 miles, N.Y. to Boston at 18-3/4¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢ due, shown in red manuscript.

S. and C. L. October 2. DISASTERS &c. Ship STEIGLITZ, from St. Petersburg for Boston, went ashore on the island of Lesage - threw overboard \$30,000 worth of manufacture to get off, and put into Copenhagen 10th Aug.

1836-1837

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services

RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

London to New York

Packet Ship Hannibal

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.



1836-37

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services

RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

London to New York via Portsmouth	Grinnell, Minturn & Co.
<u>Packet Ship Hannibal</u>	Forwarding Agent
Denmark to U. S. via London	Baring Brothers & Co.
	London

Helsingor
19 Novbr. 1836.

November 19, 1836. Letter datelined at Elsinor (Helsingor), Denmark concerning the loss of Thatcher Magoun's Ship Molo, which was driven ashore on "Gothland" during a heavy gale and snowstorm the night of October 29-30.

Molo was built and owned by T. Magoun at Medford, shipp rigged, 492 tons. Records show that she was bound from Cronstad for Boston with Russian goods and nearly 800 tons of iron. She went ashore on the island of Faro, northeast end of the island of Gottland, became a total wreck. Captain Winsor and his crew were saved.

Letter addressed to Baring Brothers & Co., London, "p Steamer from Hamburg". The writers, Chapman Norris & Co. of Elsinor, noted on reverse:

"Messrs Baring Bros. & Co. are kindly requested to forward this letter without delay to T.M. Esq. and contains very important intellegence & oblige this obdt. svts., pr Chapman, Norris & Co.,
Elsinor 19th Novr. 1836."



Nov. 26, 1836. Letter transit at London where Baring Bros. & Co. paid the 1 shilling 8d. (1/8 in mss.) for the postage, Denmark to London, deleted their own address and forwarded letter to Boston aboard the Red Swallowtail Line Packet Ship Hannibal which sailed to N.Y. Nov. 26. A fine strike of the first Foreign Post Office cds to show the word LONDON (A&H 99).



Jan. 28, 1837. The Hannibal, Capt. Roberts, arrived this date at New York. Letter there rated under Act of March 3, 1825, for a single letter 150 to 400 miles (New York to Boston 225 miles) of 18-3/4¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢ due.

Ship Hannibal, 440 tons, 117 ft. built 1822 by Fickett & Crockett at New York. Packet service on the Red Swallowtail Line from 1829-36, whaler out of New London, Conn. 1843-61. Abandoned in Cumberland Inlet 1861.

1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
The Packet Services
RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

London to New York via Portsmouth Grinnell, Minturn & Co.
Packet Ship American Congress Consignee's Letter

This ship was built in 1849 at Newcastle, Maine, 863 tons, 162'-4" x 34' beam, 17' depth of hold. Her average westbound passage was 36 days, with the shortest 21, longest 77 days. She was in the Red Swallowtail fleet until 1879.

Her commander was Samuel Webb Mather from Lyme, Conn. who skippered the American Congress until 1860. He became a U.S.N. master on the South Atlantic Blockade; killed in action Mar. 22, 1862, at Mosquito Inlet, Florida, on a landing party to secure live oak.



Sept. 30, 1859. Letter dalelined at London advising shipment of 29 cases of sticklac aboard the American Congress.

October 9. Ship American Congress sailed from London.

N.Y. Times. Arr, N.Y. Nov. 10 ship American Congress, Mather, London and Portsmouth Oct. 9, with mdse and passengers to Grinnell, Minturn & Co. To lon. 40 had easterly winds and fine weather. ¶ Rated 6¢, Ship Letter to port of entry.

1825

The Packet Services
RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

New York to London

Fish, Grinnell & Co.

Packet Ship Brighton

June 28, 1825. A letter datelined at London from Bainbridges & Brown. It is endorsed: p. Brighton.

The 354 ton Brighton was in the service of the Red Swallowtail Line from 1824-31 as the first ship of the fleet. This 1825 letter is from an early voyage.



Shipping and Commercial List, New York:
Arrived August 19, Ship Brighton, Sebor...
London.

Letter rated, Act of 1816, single letter
80-150 miles, zone rate of 12½¢ + 2¢ Ship
Letter charge = 14½¢ due.



SHIP

Master on this voyage was the original commander of the Brighton, William S. Sebor who served in the London packet service from 1824 to 1850, one of the longest records on continuous ocean packet command.

1827

The Packet Services
RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

New York to London

Fish, Grinnell & Co.

Packet Ship Brighton

4th Month 30th 1827. Letter Quaker dated at New York concerns the poor state of several insurance company stocks owned by the addressee John Hitchings at Stamford Hill near London. The Life & Fire Coy. is in receivership, and low quotations were made on the Mechanics, Mercantile and Protection Insurance companies. Letter is endorsed: p. Brighton. It went directly to the ship's letter bag at the Tontine Coffee House.

The ship Brighton was the first vessel of the Red Swallowtail Line, 354 tons, in service 1824-31.

N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List. April 25. VESSELS UP FOR FOREIGN PORTS: Ship Brighton, Sebor, 16 E.R., 1st May...Fish, Grinnell & Co. for London. This vessel cleared April 30 and sailed May 1, as advertised.

Master on this passage was William S. Sebor who served in the London packet service from 1824 to 1850, one of the longest records of continuous ocean packet command.



PORTSMOUTH
SHIP LETTER

May 24. Brighton arrived at Portsmouth, step type arrival SHIP LETTER mark.

May 25. London arrival backstamps. 10 A.M. (Forenoon). Letter was rated, Portsmouth to London (72 miles) as a single letter 50 to 80 miles at 8d. (Act of 1812) plus 8d. Ship Letter charge = 1sh.4d. due, shown in manuscript.

C
25MY25
1827

O.F. NOGNO
MY 25
1827

1827

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
The Packet Services
RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

London to New York via Portsmouth Grinnell, Minton & Co.
Packet Ship Brighton, Capt. Sebor

The 354 ton ship Brighton was the first ship of the Red Swallowtail Line, serving from 1824-31, after which she became a whaler, 1835-59.

Her commander was William S. Sebor of Connecticut who skippered her through her entire service with the London Line. Capt. Sebor had one of the longest records of ocean packet command, from 1824 to 1850. His will was probated in October 1860.

May 30, 1827. Letter datelined at London concerns a remittance from Capt. Francis H. Rogers of the brig Marcella at Liverpool.



SHIP

N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List: Arrived at New York April 23:
Ship Brighton, Sebor.....London.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter 150-400 miles, N.Y. to Portland, zone rate of 18-3/4¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢ due.

1826

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
The Packet Services
RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

New York to London via Portsmouth Fish, Grinnell & Co.

Packet Ship Cortes

381 ton ship, 106'-6" x 28'-6" beam, depth of hold 14'-3".
Launched 1820 at New Bedford. Began service in the Liverpool
Swallowtail Line, transferred in 1826 to the London Red Swallow-
tail Line. Served here only one year, until 1827. She averaged
40 days westbound while with Red Swallowtail. In 1828 she became
a whaler to 1857.

Her commander for this voyage was Benjamin Sprague from Bridge-
water, Mass. He served on the Cortes in 1826, and in the Leeds
in 1828. On Dec. 24, 1828, he was wrecked in the Red Swallowtail
packet Leeds in the Thames, caught by the falling tide. Leeds
was salvaged.



June 30, 1826. Letter Quaker dated 6 mo 30 1826 at New York.
N.Y. Shipping List: Vessels up for Foreign Ports: Ship Cortes,
Sprague, 16 East River, Fish, Grinnell & Co. for London. Letter
bag at the Tontine Coffee House.

Cortes cleared June 30 for London, sailed July 1.

PORTSMOUTH
SHIP LETTER

August 9, 1826. Cortes arrived at
Portsmouth, and mail went overland to
London, Aug. 10 arrival backstamps,
10 A.M. (Fore Noon). Letter was rated
Portsmouth to London (72 miles) as a
single letter 50 to 80 miles at 8d.
(Act of 1812) plus 8d. Ship Letter
charge = 1sh.4d. due.



1827

RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

New York to London via Portsmouth

Packet Ship Columbia

Letter signed by

Admiral Wm. Bainbridge. USN



Washington City

My dear Sir

May 26, 1827

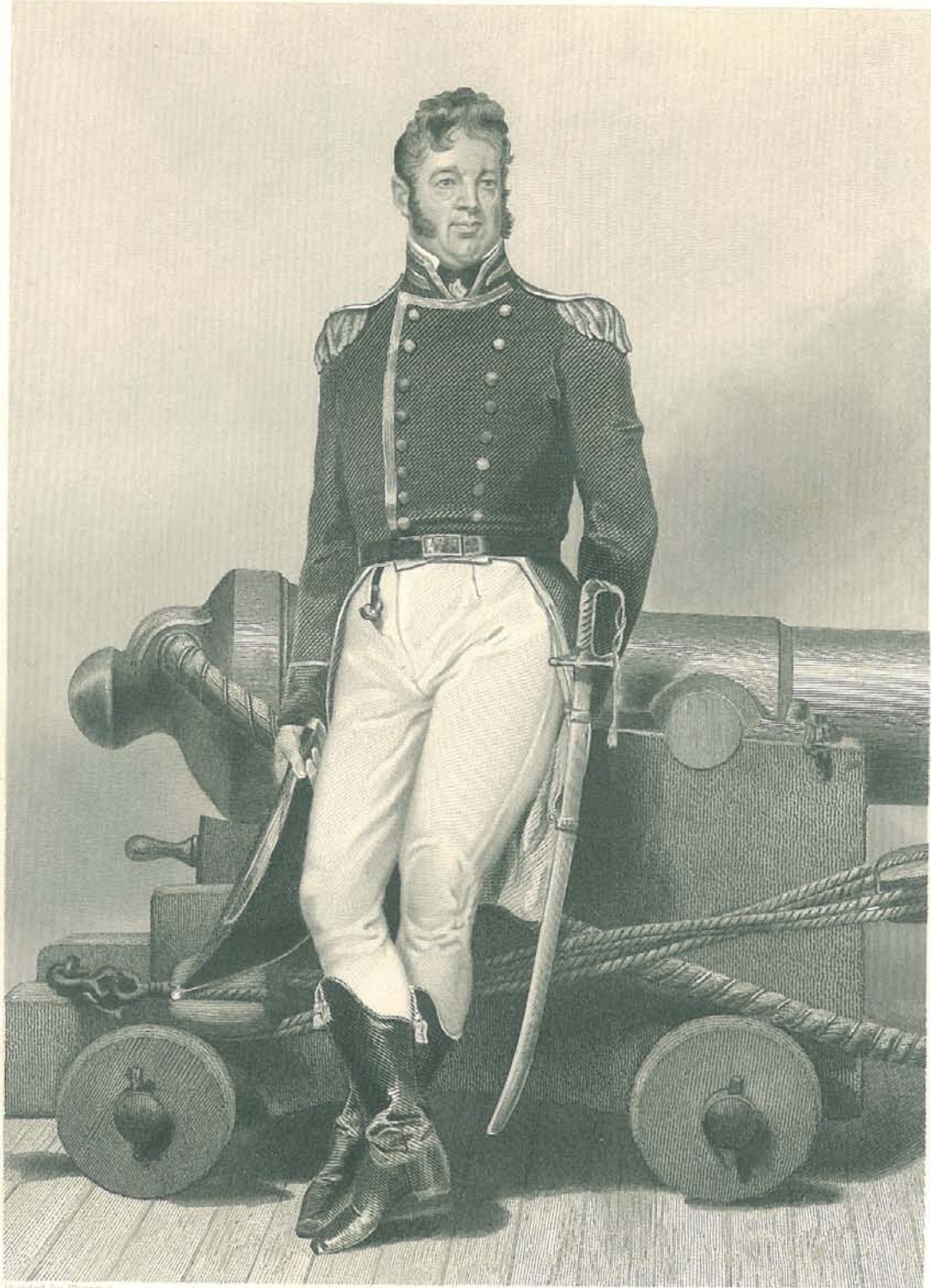
I have recently been appointed one of three officers to survey the Navy Yards in this country, & to report a systematic plan for their permanent improvement.

You will oblige me personally, & may render a public service by procuring & forwarding as early as practicable, a plan (no matter how rough) of the Dock Yards at Plymouth, Portsmouth & Deptford; any expense you may incur will be cheerfully paid on demand by

To
Wm. Aspinwall Esq.
at
London.

Your friend

& Obt. Svt.
Wm. Bainbridge (signed)



Painted by Claggs

Engraved by W. Wellman

W. Linn Bodge

From the original in the possession of the Publishers

Johnson Fry & Co. Publishers, New York.

Printed according to Act of Congress, Act 2252 by Johnson Fry & Co. in the City of New York, in the District Court for the Southern District of New York.

1839-40

RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

New York to London via Portsmouth Grinnell Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship Ontario

DEAL SHIP LETTER

Experimental 4d. rate cover

December 2, 1839. A letter docketed at New York and endorsed: p. Ontario. N.B.: December 1 was a Sunday. In accordance with the custom of the time, this letter was dated on Monday December 2 to avoid a Sunday date.

Shipping & Commercial List, N.Y.: VESSELS UP FOR FOREIGN PORTS:-LONDON, Ship Ontario, Bradish, 18 ER, 1st December, Grinnell, Minturn & Co. Ontario cleared New York on November 30, sailed December 1.



DEAL
SHIP LETTER

E
1 JAN 1
1840

January 1, 1840. New Year's Day arrival backstamp at London. Ontario had landed her mails at the Downs off Deal and this letter received as a SHIP LETTER at Deal.

This letter was rated at the experimental British Inland rate of 4d. (effective December 5, 1839 - January 9, 1840) plus the 8d. Ship Letter charge, total 12d. or one shilling, shown as 1/- in manuscript. On January 10, 1840, the standard Ship Letter rate became 8d.

1842

RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

New York to London via Portsmouth Grinnell Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship Ontario

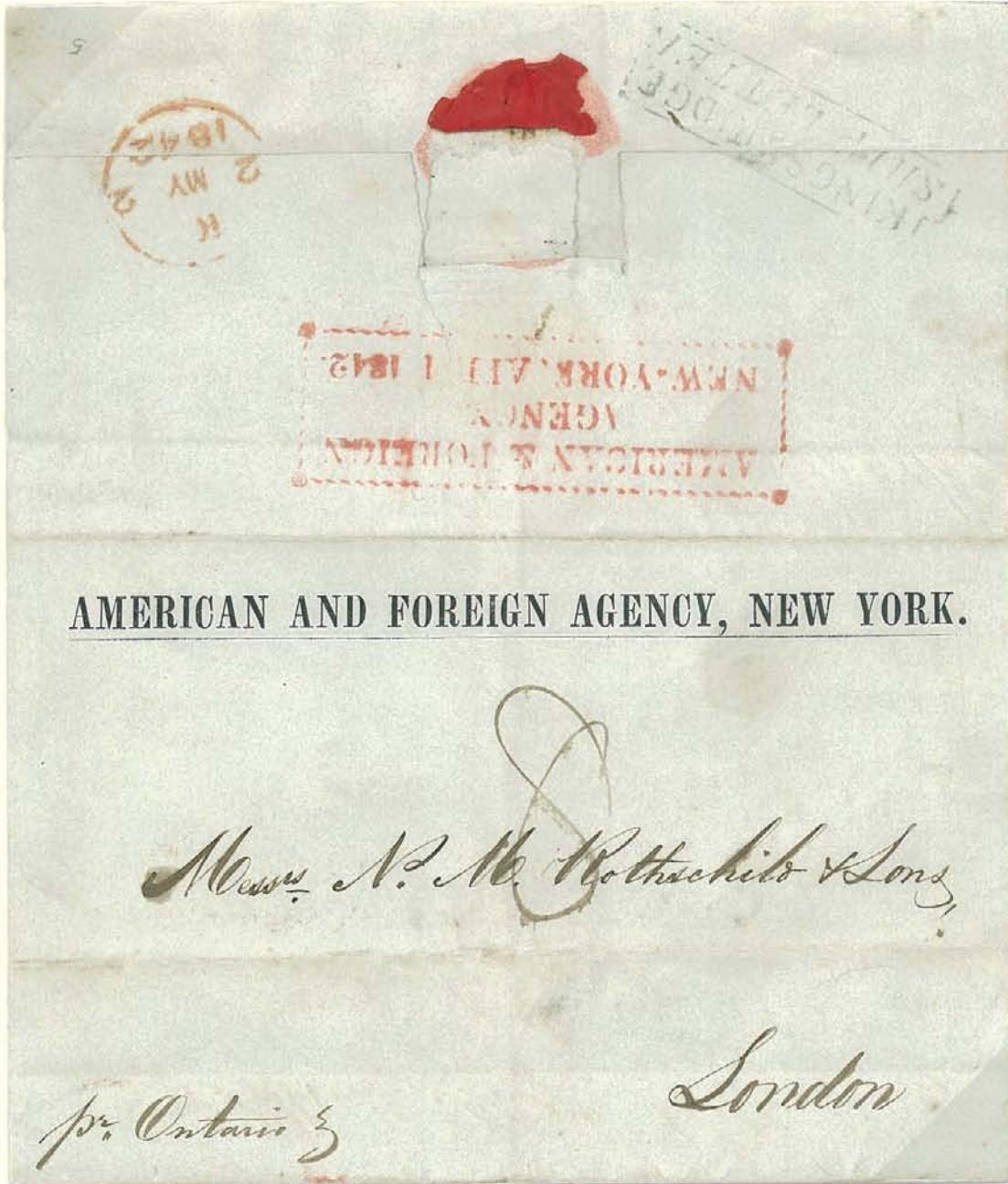
Forwarding Agent:

American and Foreign Agency

New York

KINGSBRIDGE

SHIP LETTER



AMERICAN AND FOREIGN AGENCY, NEW YORK.

Messrs. N. M. Rothschild & Sons,

per Ontario

London

1842

RED SWALLOW TAIL LINE

New York to London via Portsmouth

Grinnell Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship Ontario

Forwarding Agent:

American and Foreign Agency
New York

KINGSBRIDGE
SHIP LETTER



March 31, 1842. A letter from the American and Foreign Agency at New York to the London banking firm of N.M. Rothschild & Sons. It was written on the agency's printed letter sheet and backstamped with the agency's cachet dated New-York April 1, 1842, and endorsed: per Ontario.

Shipping and Commercial List, N.Y.. Wednesday March 30.:
VESSELS UP FOR FOREIGN PORTS, LONDON. Ship Ontario, Bradish, 18
E.R. 1st April...Grinnell Minturn & Co.

Cleared, April 2 - Ship Ontario, Bradish for London.

Ontario - This 489 ton ship was in the Red swallowtail Line service from 1830-43.



May 2. Arrival backstamp at London. This letter had been put ashore at Kingsbridge on the Devonshire coast near Plymouth. This is an unusual port for the Red Swallowtail ships as the normally made the English landfall at Portsmouth. Kingsbridge is on a sheltered harbor between Bolt Head and Prawle Point and was used occasionally as a harbor of refuge during severe weather. There are several Kingsbridge Ship Letter handstamps extant.

Letter went overland to London where it was subject to the 8d. Ship Letter rate, single, in effect since 1840.

1836

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
Packet Ship Samson

RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE



1836

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services

RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

New York to London via Portsmouth

Packet Ship Samson

Forwarding Agent:
Meyer & Hupeden. N.Y.

484 tons, 128' x 28'-10" beam. Built 1831 by Christian Bergh & Co., New York. Served on the Red Swallowtail Line until May 20, 1841, when she struck a rock off Cape Sable; beached at White Head, Nova Scotia.

Captain on this 1836 passage was the prominent Russell Sturgis (1804-1872), b. Barnstable, Cape Cod, Mass. He commanded the Samson from 1836-40, then settled in N.Y. as a merchant and ship owner on South Street. His obituary said, "He was the owner of a very fine fleet of vessels, whose pennants float over almost every sea."

November 5, 1836. Docket notes letter from New Orleans. Letter in bulk packet or "by favor" to New York.

Letter was forwarded by the forwarding agents Meyer & Hupeden at New York. The London Red Swallowtail packet Samson, Captain Sturgis, sailed from New York November 10, 1836 for Portsmouth.



PORTSMOUTH
SHIP LETTER



Letter bags went ashore at Portsmouth, England where the PORTSMOUTH / SHIP LETTER (R. s 14) was struck to show rating method. Two very similar marks of this type exist, this one having the wider (42 mm.) top panel. S 13 has a narrower panel.

December 12, 1836. Transit backstamp at London where letter was rated, Portsmouth to London (72 miles), Act of 1812 rates:

Letter going 50 to 80 miles	8d.
Ship letter charge	6d.
Captain's pence	2d.
	Total 16d. = 1sh.4d.

Treble letter or 1sh.4d. x 3 = 4 shillings, shown as 4/- on face.

1838

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services

*

RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

London to New York via Portsmouth

Packet Ship Quebec

1838
The Packet Services
arrived by
H.M.S. "Quebec"

Mr. H. Glath & Co
London
Dublin

1838
G. M. Nathan
Bathurst Quay
No 2 July
DARTMOUTH
SHIP LETTER
MONTREAL
JULY 19 1838

1838

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services

RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

London to New York via Portsmouth Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship Quebec

Forwarding Agent:

DARTMOUTH SHIP LETTER

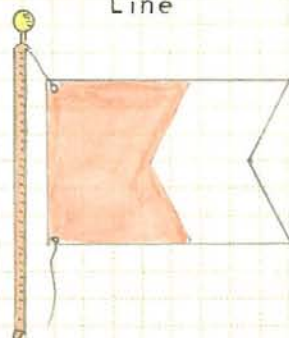
Wm. W. DeForrest & Co.

New York

May 24, 1838. Letter datelined at Baltimore, states an enclosure is to be "forwarded by first & safest conveyance to Calcutta".

780 / New York June 5th 1838
forwarded by
Wm W De Forrest & Co

House Flag
Red Swallowtail
Line



June 5, 1838. Letter by favor to New York to forwarder Wm. W. DeForrest & Co., who endorsed letter on reverse and put it into the letter bag of the Packet Ship Quebec, 653 ton ship in service 1836-47, after which she was a New Orleans packet, 1847-53. She was built at New York in 1836 (registered at port of New York Oct. 8, 1836). "780" is DeForrest letter control number.

DARTMOUTH
SHIP LETTER

DARTMOUTH
JUN 29
1838

F
2 JY 2
1838

June 29, 1838. Letter put ashore at first port of call, Dartmouth. It was then subject to British mileage zone rates, Dartmouth to London. A rare ship letter mark (Robertson S.3) shows port of entry.

July 2. London arrival back-stamp. Act of 1812 (52 Geo. III Cap.88) quadruple (1 oz.) letter rate, 170-230 miles (Dartmouth - London = 203 miles) of 3sh.8d. + 8d. ship letter charge = 4sh.4d. due.

1839

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The Packet Services



RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

London to New York via Portsmouth Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

Packet Ship Gladiator

Gladiator, 649 tons, 137'-6" x 32'-4" beam, depth of hold 20'-6". Built 1835 by C. Bergh & Co., New York. She was in the Red Swallowtail Line until 1850, was then a whaler 1850-54, the largest packet-whaler.

Captain on this passage was Thomas Britton (-1851), brother of Alexander and John, both packet captains. In Josephine, Belfast packet, he made a 15 day passage to N.Y. He skippered the Gladiator from 1836 to '44.



March 11, 1839. Letter datelined at London and carried good news to Seth Low.

Gladiator


London March 11th 1839

Dear Sir. I have great pleasure in informing you that your daughter was safely brought to bed yesterday morning of a fine girl. Both mother & child are doing very well - Had a quite comfortable time.

I am yours &c. J. Hillaid.

April 24. Arrived at New York, Ship Gladiator, Britton, from London. Rated 6¢ (manuscript), the Ship Letter rate for a letter addressed to the port of entry.

1840

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
The Packet Services
—  —
RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

London to New York
Packet Ship Quebec

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.



August 8, 1840. A letter from Baring Brothers & Co. posted at the Lombard Street (LS) Post Office, London. It was paid as a Ship Letter at the standard 8d. Ship Letter rate in effect starting in 1840. It was endorsed to "pr Quebec", a 653 ton packet of the Red Swallowtail Line.



September 14, 1840. N.Y. SHIPPING & COMMERCIAL LIST: Arrived at New York, Ship Quebec, Hebard, London. (Quebec scheduled to return to London 20th October, Grinnell, Minturn & Co.)

Letter rated Act of 1825 rates for a single letter, N.Y. to Boston (225 miles), inland miles at 18-3/4¢, 150-400 miles, plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢ due.

1836-37

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
The Packet Services
RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

New York to London via Portsmouth

Packet Ship St. James

SHIP LETTER/DEAL

Ship St. James, 641 tons, in Red Swallowtail Line service 1835-48. Sold to Boston registry; wrecked on Irish Coast Nov. 20, 1848.

December 31, 1836. Letter dated at New York and endorsed: St. James.

Morning Courier and New-York Enquirer, Jan. 2, 1837, MARINE LIST. Cleared, St. James, Seber, for London, Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

January 25, 1837. The packet ship ST. James arrived at the Downs off Deal where the SHIP LETTER/DEAL was struck as a backstamp. Stagecoach to London where the London receiving back stamp was struck.

SHIPLETTER
DEAL

F
25JA25
1837

Letter rated Act of 1812 (52 Geo. III Cap. 88) for a single letter conveyed 50 to 80 miles (Deal to London is 74 miles) at 8d. plus 8d. Ship Letter charge = 16d., shown as lsh4d. or 1/4 in manuscript.



1838

RED SWALLOW TAIL LINE

New York to London via Portsmouth

Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

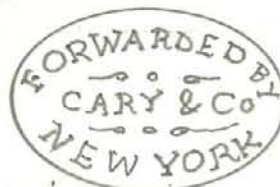
Packet Ship Wellington

Forwarding Agent

Cary & Co., New York

June 14, 1838. A letter dated at Boston and sent under cover to the New York forwarders Cary & Co.

Shipping & Commercial List, N.Y. VESSELS UP FOR FOREIGN PORTS: London, Ship Wellington, Chadwick, 17 E.R., 20th June, Grinnell, Minturn & Co.



Cary & Co. struck their forwarder's backstamp and put the letter into the Wellington's letter bag.

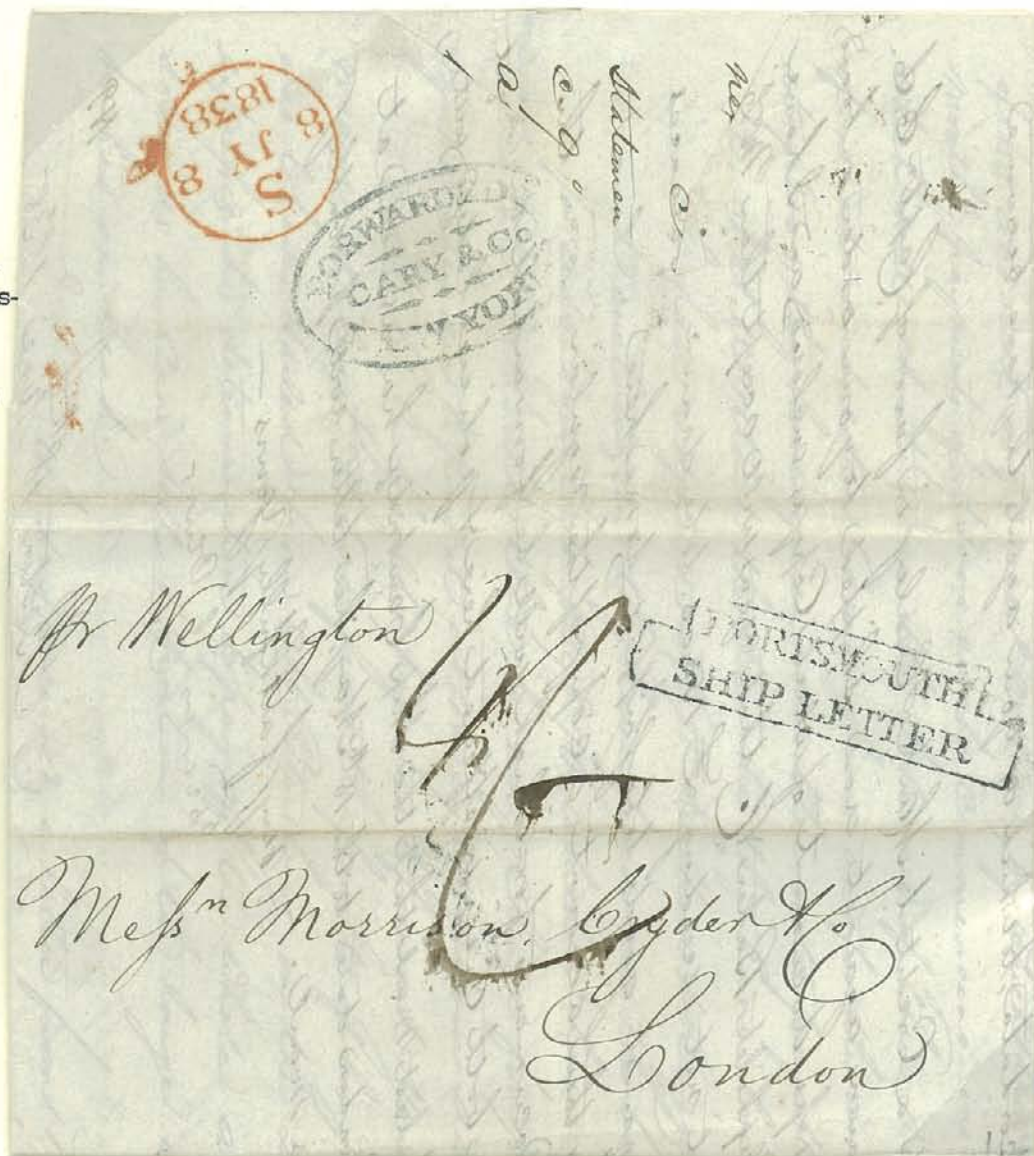
PORTSMOUTH
SHIP LETTER



July 7. Wellington arrived at Portsmouth.

July 8 (Sunday). Transit backstamp at London.

Letter rated, Portsmouth to London (72 Miles) at 8d. for a single letter 50 to 80 miles (Act of 1812) plus 8d. Ship Letter charge = 1sh.4d. This letter contained enclosures so was trble rated at 1sh.4d. x 3 = 4shillings, shown as 4/- in manuscript.



1839

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
The Packet Services
— — — — —
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— — — — —
RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

London to New York via Portsmouth Grinnell, Minturn & Co.
Packet Ship Wellington

Wellington was of 726 tons, 144'-3" long, 33'-4" beam. She was built by C. Berg & Co., N.Y. in 1835 and served on the Red Swallowtail Line until 1850. In 1853 she became a New Orleans packet until 1860. She was a fairly average packet averaging 34 days on the westbound passage. Here the voyage took 40 days. Her longest voyage was 60 days.



July 15, 1839.
Letter datelined at Chatteris and directionally endorsed "p private Ship / via London". It was backstamped with the unframed, undated circular stamp at Chatteris. Sender paid 1 shilling packet rate shown in red.



s.50

July 18-19. Transit tombstone and Paid Ship Letter merks at London. The ship Wellington, Capt. Chadwick, departed from London on July 27, 1839.



Sept. 5, 1839. New York Ship Letter arrival mark, 40 days out from London. The letter was rated at the Act of March 3, 1825 rates for a letter going over 400 miles at 25¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 27¢ due, shown in black at upper right in manuscript.